

Korea Letters: 1890 - 1899 from S.A. Moffett and Graham Lee, pp.175-184. (Vol. 8, Reel #179)
 (Since 1892, #21 - #91, pp.177-184 from "Korea Micro Film Index, vol. 1-2.")

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25	S. A. Moffett	11/9/1892	The last two years		
26	S. A. Moffett	11/23/1892	The theological class..	178	
27	GL	12/22/1892	Month's trip to Pyengyang..		
28	S. A. Moffett	02/1/1893	3rd Annual Report		
29	S. A. Moffett	2/24/1893	The medical work..		
30	GL	4/13/1893	First attempt to open Pyengyang.		
31	S. A. Moffett	05/8/1893	Preparing to leave for Py...		
32	S. A. Moffett	5/15/1893	Removal of the Girls' School.		
33	S. A. Moffett	06/6/1893	Tong Haks, a secret religious..		
34	S. A. Moffett	08/2/1893	The salary question		
35	GL	10/28/1893	"to get married"	178	
36	GL	12/30/1893	To be married January 10th.	179	
37	GL	1/24/1894	Letter from Mr. Moffett		
38	S. A. Moffett	11/1/1893	Dr. Underwood's Hymn book..		
39	S. A. Moffett	11/14/1893	History of the Mission		
40	S. A. Moffett	1/12/1894	Hundreds of people..		
41	S. A. Moffett	3/16/1894	Eui Ju, Gospel of Luke		
42	GL	2/12/1894	Why he did not see Mr...		
43	S. A. Moffett	4/14/1894	Mr. Underwood's appeal		
44	GL	5/11/1894	Return to field with wife.		
45	S. A. Moffett	7/30/1894	Great Crisis in Korea ..		
45a	S. A. Moffett	8/21/1894	Cholera epidemic..		
46	GL	8/27/1894	"Moffett's return from Pyengyang...."	180	
47	S. A. Moffett	8/27/1894	The Japan-Chinese War.		
48	S. A. Moffett	09/9/1894	Girls' School		
49	GL	10/22/1894	"Went to Mr. Moffett's place and"		
50	S. A. Moffett	11/1/1894	Battle of Pyengyang..		
51	S. A. Moffett	01/4/1895	The ordination of Mr. Gale..		
52	GL	1/11/1895	"Mr. Moffett leaving in a day"		
53	GL	1/12/1895	Leaving for Pyengyang..		
54	S. A. Moffett	1/12/1895	Conditions at Eui Ju	181	
55	GL	08/7/1895	Girls' School property...		
56	GL	09/1/1895	Offer of H.N. Allen to sell		
57	GL	9/16/1895	"Moffett, Dr. Wells and"		
58	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Annual Report		
59	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Salaries of Korea Missionaries		
60	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Annual Report		
61	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Special Bible Committee Trans.		
62	S. A. Moffett	11/1/1895	Comments on Annual Report		
63	S. A. Moffett	11/7/1895	Miss Arbuckle's resignation		
64	GL	12/27/1895	Plans for building at Py		
65	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	The presence of the ladies..	182	
66	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	The winter training class		
67	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	For needed residences..		
68	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	Industrial teacher		
69	GL	1/27/1896	simply swamped with work..		
70	S. A. Moffett	2/18/1896	Two weeks' trip to Whang Hai Do		
71	GL	03/5/1896	"Come down with Mr. Moffett,...."		
73	S. A. Moffett	03/4/1896	Chemulop, vacation		
74	GL	12/28/1896	Baptisms, new congregations		
75	S. A. Moffett	1/29/1896	Pastor in Baltimore	183	
76	S. A. Moffett	9/22/1896	Congregation of 500		
77	S. A. Moffett	7/20/1896	Settled down to steady growth		
78	S. A. Moffett	11/14/1896	Board approval of his furlough.		
79	S. A. Moffett	12/15/1896	Plans to go to New York.		
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✓ 22	S. A. Moffett	3/17/1892	"Why he prefers Pyengyang"		11
✓ 23	S. A. Moffett	03/5/1892	Single woman		3
✓ 24	S. A. Moffett	09/6/1892	Eui Ju, China..		9
✓ 25	S. A. Moffett	11/9/1892	The last two years		14
✓ 26	S. A. Moffett	11/23/1892	The theological class..	178	7
✓ 28	S. A. Moffett	02/1/18931	3rd Annual Report		8
✓ 29	S. A. Moffett	2/24/1893	The medical work..		4 3
✓ 31	S. A. Moffett	05/8/1893	Preparing to leave for Py...		4 4(2) OK
✓ 32	S. A. Moffett	5/15/1893	Removal of the Girls' School.		6(5)
✓ 33	S. A. Moffett	06/6/1893	Tong Haks, a secret religious..		9(2)
✓ 34	S. A. Moffett	08/2/1893	The salary question		11(9)
✓ 37	GL	1/24/1894	Letter from Mr. Moffett		3
✓ 38	S. A. Moffett	11/1/1893	Dr. Underwood's Hymn book..		11
✓ 39	S. A. Moffett	11/14/1893	History of the Mission		4 (page 5 missing)
✓ 40	S. A. Moffett	1/12/1894	Hundreds of people..		
✓ 41	S. A. Moffett	3/16/1894	Eui Ju, Gospel of Luke		
✓ 43	S. A. Moffett	4/14/1894	Mr. Underwood's appeal		
✓ 45	S. A. Moffett	7/30/1894	Great Crisis in Korea ..		
✓ 45a	S. A. Moffett	8/21/1894	Cholera epidemic..		Last page OK
✓ 46	GL	8/27/1894	"Moffett's return from Pyengyang...."	180	ps bottom line cut by the film
✓ 47	S. A. Moffett	8/27/1894	The Japan-Chinese War.		
✓ 48	S. A. Moffett	09/9/1894	Girls' School		
✓ 49	GL	10/22/1894	"Went to Mr. Moffett's place and"		
✓ 50	S. A. Moffett	11/1/1894	Battle of Pyengyang..		
✓ 51	S. A. Moffett	01/4/1895	The ordination of Mr. Gale..		
✓ 52	GL	1/11/1895	"Mr. Moffett leaving in a day"		
✓ 54	S. A. Moffett	1/12/1895	Conditions at Eiu Ju	181	X5 p.1,3 OK Right Edge
✓ 57	GL	9/16/1895	"Moffett, Dr. Wells and ..."		4
✓ 58	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Annual Report		2
✓ 59	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Salaries of Korea Missionaries		2
✓ 60	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Annual Report		17
✓ 61	S. A. Moffett	Oct. 1895	Special Bible Committee Trans.		10 OK (p.4)
✓ 62	S. A. Moffett	11/1/1895	Comments on Annual Report		8
✓ 63	S. A. Moffett	11/7/1895	Miss Arbuckle's resignation		2
✓ 65	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	The presence of the ladies..	182	2
✓ 66	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	The winter training class		8
✓ 67	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	For needed residences..		4
✓ 68	S. A. Moffett	1/21/1896	Industrial teacher		3
✓ 70	S. A. Moffett	2/18/1896	Two weeks' trip to Whang Hai Do		6
✓ 71	GL	03/5/1896	"Come down with Mr. Moffett,...."		4
✓ 73	S. A. Moffett	03/4/1896	Chemulop, vacation		18
876 75	S. A. Moffett	1/29/1896	Pastor in Baltimore	183	No films
✓ 76	S. A. Moffett	9/22/1896	Congregation of 500		3
✓ 77	S. A. Moffett	7/20/1896	Settled down to steady growth		4
✓ 78	S. A. Moffett	11/14/1896	Board approval of his furlough.		8
✓ 79	S. A. Moffett	12/15/1896	Plans to go to New York.		2
✓ 81	GL	1/22/1897- 7/3/1897	????		12
✓ 82	S. A. Moffett	1/30/1897- 7/31/1897	???		29
✓ 83	S. A. Moffett	4/6/1898	The gradual and Judicious transference		9
✓ 84	S. A. Moffett	7/27/1898	Recent Baptisms reported.	184	6
✓ 85	S. A. Moffett	12/1/1898	Most pressing question. ...		
✓ 86	S. A. Moffett	1/19/1899	Houses-new missionaries		
✓ 87	S. A. Moffett	2/11/1899	His engagement to Miss Alice Fish		
✓ 88	S. A. Moffett	7/10/1899	Reporting his marriage to Miss Fish..		
✓ 89	S. A. Moffett	10/17/1899	Annual Meeting		
✓ 90	S. A. Moffett	11/27/1899	Ten-day trip to a country		

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copy

97

153

Graham Lee's Letters that didn't mention of Mr. Moffett on pp.177-184. (Vol. 8, Reel #179)

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69	GL	1/27/1896	simply swamped with work..	182	
72	GL	4/8/1896	Miss Sara L. Ribble		
74	GL	12/28/1896	Baptisms, new congregations		
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84	S. A. Moffett	7/27/1898	Recent Baptisms reported.	184	
85	S. A. Moffett	12/1/1898	Most pressing question. ...		
86	S. A. Moffett	1/19/1899	Houses-new missionaries		
87	S. A. Moffett	2/11/1899	His engagement to Miss Alice Fish		
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Pyengyang, Korea

October 22, 1900

S.A. Moffett

My Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I have been greatly disappointed in not having taken the time for my semi-occasional letter to you, but it seems that the work on our hands increases at such a rate that only the most imperatively urgent things receive attention and the many other things we should like to do are postponed again and again. This time I can combine a personal letter with the monthly station letter concerning the work of the station during the month of meetings of Council and Mission.

None of us had very much of a respite from work this summer, Miss Best, Mrs. Moffett & I being the only ones who succeeded, through absolute necessity, in running off for two weeks to Chemulpo [Inchon] where, however, delayed correspondence and a host of minor items pretty fully occupied our time. The month of August is the only month in which there is a lull in the work and this year that time was needed for preparations of reports and of plans for the Council and Annual Meeting.

Mr. Lee & Dr. Sharrocks were busy on the new church building. Dr. Sharrocks, a practical carpenter, having arrived in Pyengyang just in time to render very valuable assistance to Mr. Lee in what has been a truly great undertaking, the building of such a large church. Mr. Baird spent his time in getting back into the harness and in perfecting plans for the Academy, also making one country trip to ten groups on his former circuit. Mr. Hunt was pushing on to completion his new house in hopes of being able to entertain some additional guests during the Annual Meeting, and to his narrative he briefly adds: "Vacation 3 days". Dr. & Mrs. Wells were off for a brief trip on the river, the rest of the time being spent in the hospital as usual.

The primary schools were all started again for the fall and winter work - and we then went into the work of Council [the Presbyterian Council] and Mission with all the concentration of thought & energy which that necessitates.

Mr. Lee, Mr. Hunt & I went to Chemulpo for the Council which this year was exceedingly important in that we have reached the point where the 3rd stage in the self-development of the Korean Church is being dealt with. We already have a self-propagating church and we have made fair progress along the lines of self-support, but we are now dealing with a much more difficult phase of development - self-government and all the problems which it presents. We have begun the ordination of elders, there now being two ordained elders in Korea. This year we received the sanction of the Council to the ordination of 3 more; two in the Pyengyang Church and one in the Sun Chun Church where Mr. Whittemore and Dr. Sharrocks now are.

We have been greatly gratified with the way in which the church here has selected the very best men for the eldership. We have left it entirely to them without a suggestion other than to emphasize the importance of the office and the Scriptural qualifications necessary in those who desire the office of a bishop. The Church has shown that it can be trusted to choose the right kind of men.

We also requested the Council for permission to take under our care two men as candidates for the ministry, one of them now our only ordained Elder, the present Assistant Pastor - the other an Elder elect who for three years has been an assistant to Mr. Baird & Mr. Hunt in the country work. We expect to take these men through a several years' course of study before ordination and leave the question as to the time of ordination to be determined when we consider them fully qualified for it. I feel that we have taken a great step and one which means much to the Church in that it shows our people the character of

10/22/1900 - p.2 S.A.M.

men whom we expect to see become ministers and shows them also that we are looking forward towards placing upon them full responsibilities and privileges just as soon as we believe them fitted for it, but not before that time.

We have also planned to hold part of our next Council meeting in the Korean language - admitting 10 Koreans as delegates, these ten selected by ourselves and only the ordained elders among them having the right to vote with us - the right of discussion being accorded to all. This is looking forward to the training and disciplining of the men to enter into the work of a Presbytery when the time to set off a Presbytery in charge of the Korean Church shall have arrived. As in all other steps in our work we here also aim to develop a natural, gradual growth, giving power, authority and responsibility to the Koreans little by little, increasing it as they show by trial that they are fitted to bear the responsibility and [are] worthy to exercise authority.

The discussions in the Council on the subjects of Discipline and the Relation of the Church to State affairs were profitable in a large degree. Laxness in discipline is one of the surest ways of building up a weak church and we feel very deeply on this subject, believing that while every kindness and all love should be shown the erring, yet that no sin should be overlooked, no principle or Scriptural standard of conduct should be compromised. In our own work here we have certainly strengthened the church and made much stronger men of our leaders by taking high ground and the firmest stand on such questions as ancestral worship, polygamy, drinking and the lottery. Our leading men and officers stand with us now in all these matters, seeing the importance and the benefit of setting such a standard.

The discussion on political matters will have a marked effect in preventing the Church from being shifted off into a political organization.

After the Council we all came up here for the Mission meeting which was one of intense interest. We were delighted to be able to have the meeting here for it has been a great help to our people and to the work. The first Sabbath all were here we held the first service (Korean) in the new Church building which was far enough advanced in building to admit of this. Fully a thousand people gathered to listen to helpful sermons from Dr. Underwood & Mr. Gale and the meeting was an inspiration to the Koreans and the sight of such a congregation of Christians in the new large church was an inspiration to the whole Mission.

It was a great treat to have with us 4 of the missionaries from China, Mr. Luce from Tung Chou Fu and Messrs. Drummond, Lobenstein and Morris of Nanking. Men of fine spirit and attractive personality, we thoroughly enjoyed their presence and they very evidently enjoyed being with us, looking into our work and rejoicing with us over what God is doing here. Just before the meetings I had the privilege of taking them off to one of my little country groups where the people had just finished a very pretty little church building and where we held a helpful service.

The Annual Meeting was a good one, but it has left in the minds of many of us a feeling of great misgiving and deep concern. We are now a large Mission and the larger we grow the more difficult becomes the task of restraining individual peculiarities and tendencies and of conserving the unity and harmony of our work along lines of settled and approved policy.

This year there was an evident tendency to develop work along lines of a very different policy from that which has characterized our work for many years - ever since Dr. Nevius' visit in 1890.

I believe the most important element in the successful development of our work, that which has

10/22/1900 - p.3 S.A.M.

given us a self-propagating, self-supporting Church, has been the Apostolic simplicity of the work and the holding in the foreground the gospel character, the soul-saving, spiritual nature of the message of God to a lost world.

We have avoided the presentation of any other appeal based upon material, educational or philanthropic advantages and have concentrated our efforts upon bringing to bear upon the heathen people the supreme claims of the gospel which we believe to contain what God has ordained for the salvation of men. No institution has been allowed to stand before the people as an exponent of Christianity but Christianity itself (Christ & his truth) has been presented to them, so that this people have been made to feel that the Church is the institution which stands forth as the evident center and aim of the Western religion. Medical and educational work have been made secondary - as they should be. I believe thoroughly in both the medical and educational work and in their thorough development as first class work when the time for that development arrives and I have been foremost in the Mission in advocating thorough first class medical and educational work - but I insist with all the strength of deep conviction that that development must succeed, not precede the establishment of the Church. {This would not rule out preliminary medical work where needed to open the way - but applies to developed institutional work.}

Four years ago I believed the time for advance in our educational work had arrived and for four years I have urged over and over again the establishment of thorough Academies in the two stations, Seoul and Pyengyang, where the Church has already provided a constituency, and I still urge the development of these Academies not by a forced growth into large institutions but gradually, naturally, and thoroughly. In this I believe we have the Mission policy rightly established and I should look with alarm upon any deviation from it. I hope the Board will grant all that we ask for the Pyengyang Academy and will send at once a man for an Academy in Seoul to begin the development of an Academy there; that is, grant all that the Mission has approved and asked for this year for educational work.

In the medical work, we this year saw a departure from our policy, and a tendency which fills me with the gravest misgivings.

Last year I introduced the resolution that we as a Mission favor the establishment of a first class Mission Hospital in Seoul and that we appoint a committee to present definite plans, to the next meeting of the Mission, for our medical plant. It became evident through the year that some thought the Mission had thereby committed itself to the establishment of a large medical plant with an increased force of workers and that plans were being formed far in advance of what the mission would approve. In the meeting of the committee to report definite plans I succeeded in having two clauses inserted which represent the opinion of most of the mission, though not all - and the mission has approved the establishment of a first class medical plant in Seoul not too large to be managed by the present force of medical workers - one male physician, one lady physician and one nurse - and which shall not require for running expenses more than 2000 yen as an annual appropriation from the Board.

We sincerely hope the Board will not go beyond the approved plans of the Mission. We were surprised to hear that another physician had been appointed to Korea when the Mission had made no request for one.

The Mission believes in medical work and we want a first class plant in Seoul but I think I see clearly that it will take the hardest kind of work in the mission and the sympathetic backing and co-operation of the Board to prevent the medical work in Seoul from assuming proportions which instead of making it a real help to our main work, the evangelization of Korea, will make it an obstacle in that as a

10/22/1900 - p.4 S.A.M.

medical work it will absorb the money, energy, time and interest not only of the home church and the mission force but that of the Korean church, so that to the Korean nation, Christianity will be presented rather as a philanthropic institution, the medical work being its most prominent feature - and not as the Church of Jesus Christ for the salvation of men. In trying to make clear what I believe is a fundamental and essentially important principle which is at stake, I realize that I run the risk of being misunderstood - but I am not opposed to medical work. I do believe in it most heartily, I planned for it in our own work here - and yet it does seem to me that this year the Mission has been carried outside of the bounds of reason and is endangering that which compared to the medical work is of infinitely more value than the medical work.

What I have written with reference to the Seoul medical work is not in opposition to any action of the Mission taken so far, but is in view of what I fear will be forced upon us later on unless we can get the Board to stand for the same principle for which we most urgently plead.

What I shall now write concerning medical work in the South - Fusan and Taigoo stations - is in opposition to the action of the Mission taken this year. Neither Fusan nor Taigoo have more than the barest beginning in evangelistic work - a few baptized men - a few more catechumens. Everything is in its initial formative period when precedents and impressions count for most. They are asking for sums for a development of their medical work all out of proportion and to grant their requests will, I believe, prevent them from having what heretofore I have confidently expected they would have - a repetition of our experience in the North - a large evangelistic work with a strong self-propagating, self-supporting church composed in the main of genuinely converted men.

If the Board grants the money for such a development of the medical work there now (at this stage of the work) and thereby sanctions that policy, I believe you effectually prevent in South Korea what you & we have mutually rejoiced in in North Korea. If our protest is overruled I shall hope against hope that my fears may prove false, but I profoundly believe that the people of South Korea will have Christianity presented to them (the missionaries' words to the contrary notwithstanding), primarily as a philanthropic religion and that will be their idea of it. There is no power in that to convert men and the Spirit of God does not bless that idea to the Salvation of Souls. To a church that is losing faith in the gospel I wish Paul could stand forth once again and in all solemnity cry, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation." I would I could appear before the Board and speak to you from a heart moved to its very depths with convictions on this subject.

On Dr. Irwin's [medical missionary in Fusan] proposition that he be allowed to raise 5500 yen in addition to 2500 yen granted last year - this in addition to the value of his present plant - about 3000 yen, it required the hardest kind of work to cut it down to 3000 yen, although on the motion to cut it still further he succeeded in carrying his proposition by a vote of only 14 out of 24 voting members of the mission, 7 of these being the single ladies of the Seoul station. Miss Chase of Fusan voted steadily against it, showing her grit and courage in standing against her station. She is deeply concerned over the state of things in Fusan. The fact that the proposition was not for an appropriation (which requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote) but for permission to raise the funds outside was what enabled it to reach the Board as the action of the Mission.

I also opposed the proposition to grant Dr. Johnson 6000 yen for his work in Taigoo although I recognize the difference between that and the Fusan case which led Mr. Adams & Mr. Baird to vote for it (they having recorded their votes against the Fusan case). In Taigoo Dr. Johnson has nothing and in Taigoo building is more expensive. Nevertheless, if that amount of money is now used in a medical plant, my position as above stated, holds good.

10/22/1900 - p.5 S.A.M.

I write from deep conviction, believing that we have reached the parting of the ways and that our work in Korea is in greater & graver danger than at any time for 10 years. The decision rests with the Board - we can but speak the things which we believe and which our experience here has engraven deeply in our convictions.

The Board has seldom had a question to decide in relation to the work in Korea which is of greater importance or which affects more profoundly fundamental principles. We ask that judgment of an even one-half of the senior missionaries on the field be given grave consideration at this critical point in our work.

I have just returned from a three weeks trip to a part of my country work visiting 6 old groups and establishing 5 new ones. I had the pleasure of the company of Mr. Ross of Fusan and of Mr. Bruen of Taigoo, they having stayed over to see something of our work and methods. It was my privilege on this trip to baptize 46 and to receive 130 catechumens and to see the gospel extending still further into the mountains of the North.

There is no indication of a reaction - all goes on steadily and in the new places as well as the old the gospel is still transforming lives and characters, carrying joy and light into many a heart and many a home. With such a work on our hands & hearts we have given a double welcome to the new missionaries just arrived, Mr. & Mrs. Leck, Mr. Bernheisel and Miss Howell.

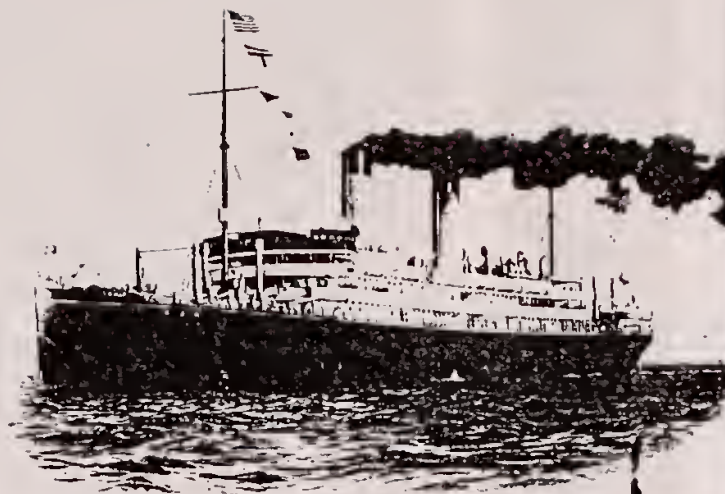
It has been with greatest interest that I have inquired at every opportunity - concerning your health. I most earnestly pray that your strength may be conserved and your health continued for yet many years of co-operation with us in this joyous service.

With kindest greetings to all in the Board rooms - in which greeting to you and to them Mrs. Moffett joins me.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

(from Microfilm reel #280, Vol. 231, letter #5)



TOYO KISEN KAISHA
S.S. "TENYO MARU"

FOR NAGASAKI

Mr. A. Davis

FOR SHANGHAI

Miss F. W. Adams	Mrs. K. K. Johnson
Mr. A. W. Billing	Mr. R. M. Leykauff
Mrs. A. W. Billing	Miss G. M. Lucas
Master A. B. Billing	Rev. H. W. Luce
Miss E. Billing	Mrs. H. W. Luce
Miss M. Billing	Miss Emma Luce
Mr. W. H. Congdon	Miss Elizabeth Luce
Mr. C. T. Craig	Master Sheldon Luce
Mr. H. Dierks	Mr. J. E. Nolte
Mr. H. Dionysuls	Mrs. J. E. Nolte
Miss R. S. Ferris	Miss A. S. Rhodes
Rev. J. Gowdy	Mr. J. P. Sartz
Mrs. J. Gowdy	Mrs. J. P. Sartz
Mrs. C. W. Harvey	Mrs. S. S. Sellick
Miss F. E. Harvey	Mr. A. E. St. Clair
Master P. L. Harvey	Miss C. E. Simpson
Miss I. M. Hickox	Mr. B. W. Smith
Rev. Geo. W. Hollister	Mrs. B. W. Smith
Mr. K. K. Johnson	Miss L. G. Thompson

FOR HONGKONG

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Mr. C. A. Biddle	Mrs. I. F. Frost
Mr. J. C. Breyfogel	Mrs. H. O. Haynor & I
Mr. A. Scott Chapman	Mr. P. R. Josslyn
Mrs. A. Scott Chapman	Dr. F. Kiang
Mr. R. Eaker	Rev. S. Kunkle
Mrs. R. Eaker	Mr. E. Lindstrom
Miss Esther Eaker	Capt. H. E. Morton
Mr. L. A. D. Engelbronner	Mr. D. E. Newell
Mrs. L. A. D. Engelbronner	Mrs. D. E. Newell & In
Miss Dorothy Engelbronner	Miss Newfeld
Rev. H. R. Fergar	Mr. J. Ryan
Mrs. H. R. Fergar	Mr. G. Smith
Dr. J. B. Fearn	Mr. E. H. Staber
Mrs. J. B. Fearn	Mr. N. I. Taylor

Mr. A. L. Whitney

FOR MANILA

Mr. A. J. Cox	Mr. C. H. Magee
Mrs. A. J. Cox	Mr. F. H. Noble
Master A. J. Cox, Jr.	Mr. J. K. Pickering
Miss Mary M. Cox	Mrs. J. K. Pickering
Miss F. Boynton	Miss D. Pickering
Mr. S. O. Dye	Mr. J. H. Ramey
Mr. Wm. Gordon	Mrs. J. H. Ramey
Mr. F. E. Hemenway	Miss H. Ramey
Mr. J. L. Irwin	Mr. C. E. Stoupes
Mr. L. E. Lacson	Mr. O. V. Wood

FOR HONOLULU

Mrs. N. Sausser & Infant Master C. Sausser
Miss M. Sausser

LIST OF PASSENGERS

SAILING PER

S.S. TENYO MARU

Voyage No. 36

From San Francisco, August 7, 1915

Officers

S. TOGO	Commander
M. JIN	Chief Officer
Y. IJIMA	Chief Engineer
T. C. McCOMBE	Purser
DR. N. P. CROOKS	Surgeon
G. H. OULTON	Freight Clerk
T. J. PARKINSON	Chief Steward
C. KOBAYASHI	Chief Clerk

FOR YOKOHAMA

Capt. H. S. Best	Mr. H. R. Johnson
Mr. G. F. Bickford	Mrs. H. R. Johnson
Mrs. G. F. Bickford	Mr. Geo. W. Kahle
Mrs. W. H. Buttrick	Mr. Y. Kataoka
Mrs. W. H. Buttrick	Mr. Kalsnikawa
Miss C. Buttrick	Mr. M. Kimura
Mr. C. S. Coy	Mr. T. Kobayakawa
Mr. E. C. Davis	Mr. S. Kojima
Mr. Wm. Dietrich	Mr. K. Kojima
Mrs. Estes	Mr. C. B. Malone
Mr. Estes	Mr. C. Miyazaki
Dr. S. Flexner	Prof. N. Murakami
Mrs. S. Flexner	Mr. K. Nakamura
Mr. J. T. H. Frank	Mr. Ohashi
Mr. M. S. H. Frank	Mr. T. W. S. Phillips
Mr. D. Furuya	Mr. Napoleao Reys
Mr. T. Furuya	Mrs. Napoleao Reys
Dr. F. L. Gates	Master Tamandare Reys
Mr. H. Gotoh	Miss Z. M. Rowland
Miss C. G. Heywood	Mr. Irving Skootsky
Judge F. W. Henshaw	Mr. S. Sofuye
Mrs. F. W. Henshaw	Mr. M. Trockey
Mr. Hiraoka	Mr. K. Tsukamoto
Mr. S. Hory	Mr. Z. Yamaguchi
Mr. I. Ito	Mr. Yamaguchi
Miss E. C. Jeff	Mr. Y. Yoshimura

FOR KOBE

Mrs. W. S. Ament	Mr. A. J. Robinson
Miss G. Bergman	Mrs. A. J. Robinson
Lieut. P. H. Clark	Dr. W. J. Schellhey
Dr. J. R. Dickson	Mrs. W. J. Schellhey
Mrs. J. R. Dickson	Mr. S. A. Stewart
Mr. G. R. Gibson	Mrs. S. A. Stewart
	Miss J. B. Stewart

Wea. SUN. AUG. 15, 1915 Ther.

Servic's a.m.
Mr. Luce of
the city
Presby. Mass
had charge.
Singing & etc

Wea. MONDAY 16 Ther.

Antioch a.m.
A.M. 2:00.
Basketball P.M.

Wea. TUES. AUG. 17, 1915 Ther.

Won Shuffle
board, quarts
and tennis

a.m. 5:00
of the Tuesday
Larkies in board.
Lots of fun

Wea. WEDNESDAY 18 Ther.

Won Shuffle
board, quarts
& tennis a.m.

Basketball a.m.
Guessing words
& songs
dinner

Wea. SUN. AUG. 15, 1915 Ther.

Services 4 m.
My Luce of
Shanting
Presbyt. Miss
had Charge,
Singing & m.

Wea. MONDAY 16 Ther.

Shuffle board
a.m. Won.
Baseball P.M.

Wea. TUES. AUG. 17, 1915 Ther.

Won Shuffle
board, quarts
and tennis

4 P.M. Theatre
L. Jackson on board.
L. too fun

Wea. WEDNESDAY 18 Ther.

Won Shuffle
board, quarts
& tennis a.m.

Baseball P.M.
Hissing words
& songs
dinner